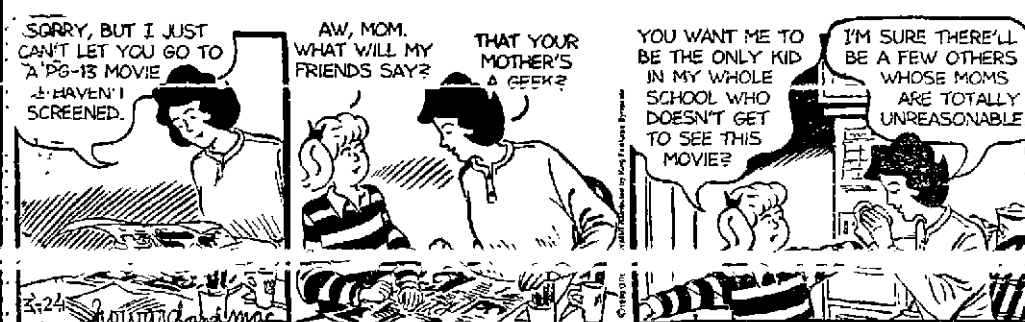


BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



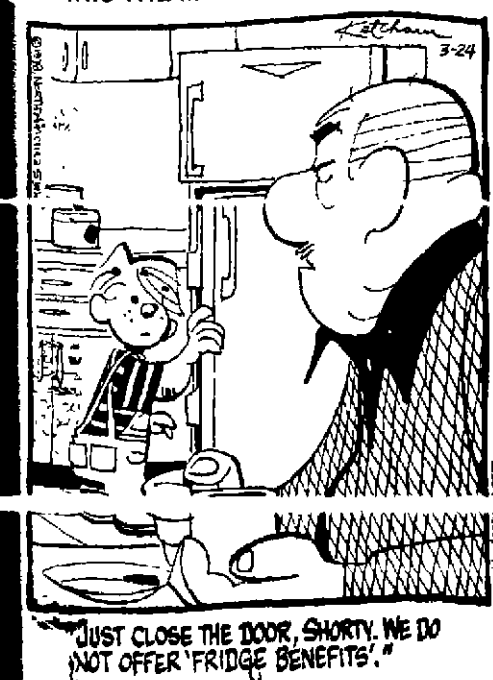
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



DILBERT



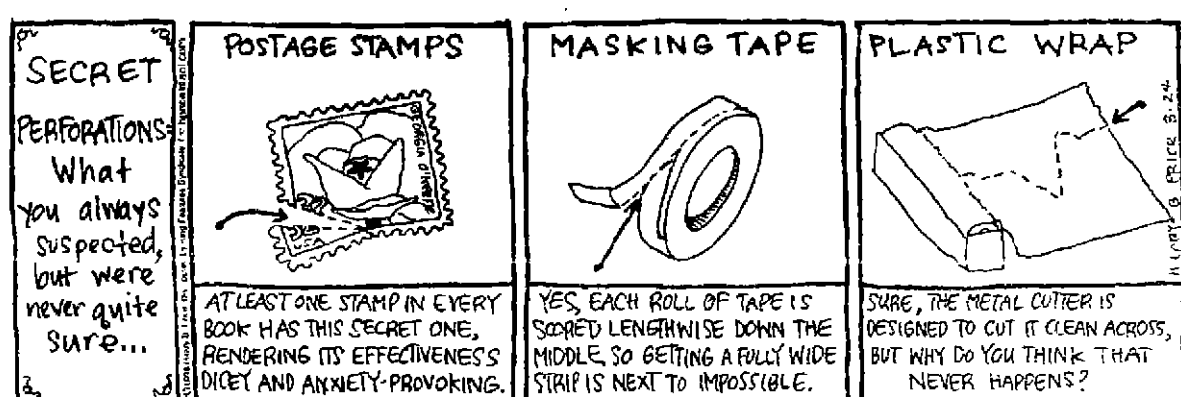
DENNIS THE MENACE



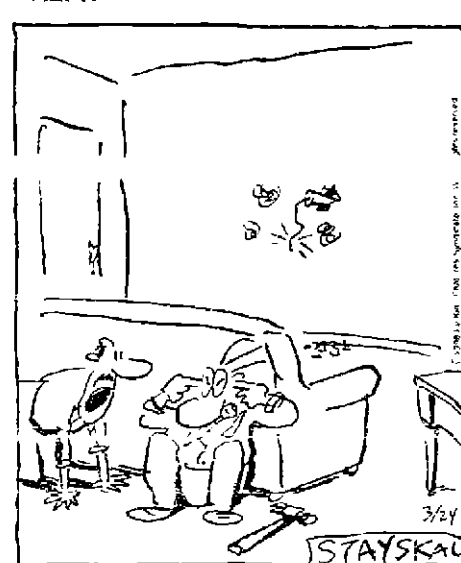
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Actor Norman Fell is 74. Fashion and costume designer Bob Mackie is 58. Movie director Curtis Hanson is 53. Rock musician Dougie Thompson (Supertramp) is 47. Comedian-actor Louie Anderson is 45. Actress Donna Pescow is 44. Actor Robert Carradine is 44. Actress Kelly LeBrock is 38. Actress Annabella Sciorra is 34. Rapper P.A. Pasemaster Mase (De La Soul) is 28.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

PAR SCORE 110-120 by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OGSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Wednesday, March 25, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're at home in a social situation but something that occurs at work throws you a bit off-kilter.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) All those chores facing you have you stressed out. Once you tackle them, you feel better.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) What you're considering is a bit of a gamble. Be sure you know all the risks involved before plunging ahead.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't be afraid to reach out if you need help. There are plenty of people who've been in the same situation.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Although your energy level isn't up to par, you still manage to get a lot done. Most of your day is devoted to household concerns.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) A loved one's words of praise mean a lot to you. Later be sure to pay attention to a domestic situation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A long-distance friendship is most satisfying. This person has very sound words of advice that you'd do well to heed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You refuse to brook any interference where your job is concerned, however, your mate does (mean) work, so you're your bad feelings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your work situation takes a turn for the better, and you're feeling more enthusiastic. A challenge is just what you needed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Be sure to check all locks before leaving the house. It's also a wise idea to be sure all appliances are shut off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Someone from your past is worrying about you. Perhaps you should do a better job of keeping in touch.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You're at your helpful best where family and co-workers are concerned. You no sooner solve one problem than you're off working on another.

WORD SLEUTH

in the lab

A S G D B Y W T R P M K I F D
H B E Y C W U S Q O M K I F C
D S B B R Z X W U K S Q O S U
N L I J U H F D C A S T L Y V
F B W D C T V Y O B R A C T E
S U Q P I N C H C O C K L T T
P N N N B R K T I I T E T
F S E N L C T E M B Z E Y W E
L E S S E V R E T U P M O C R
V N U S R L H Q P I P N M L U
J I H F E C D C P R E K A E B

Monday's unlisted clue: MESS

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: BURNER

Beaker Computer Funnel Retort
Burette Crucible Petri dish Tubes
Carboy Cuvette Pinchcock Vessel
Chemicals Flask Pipette

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For solution, see Classified.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

"How did you beat the game on Board 27?" asked a duplicate player. "Did West lead a club to get the ruff?" No, it was a trick that was easy," was the reply. "He led diamonds, but I was lucky enough to see through South's deception." Had West led his club nine, the hand was unmakeable. Whether East won immediately or not, the defenders had time and communication to score a club ruff. However, after clubs were bid and raised, West chose to lead a diamond. What logical reason guided East to the winning defense? South put up dummy's diamond king at trick one, hoping to entice East into a diamond return. Had East obliged, there would have been no club ruff. Warily, instead of an impulsive return, East donned his thinking cap. Because West led a low diamond instead of the queen, East placed him with one honor, not both. If West held the queen, South would have undoubtedly ducked to his jack. Obviously, South had the diamond queen and was blowing smoke. East could expect to win two aces, and the best he could hope for from West was a quick trump trick. There wasn't time to build a defensive heart winner. If West held a quick trump winner and a singleton club, surely he would have led his singleton. So East played West for two aces and switched to a low club. South won and quickly played the ace and another trump, but it didn't work. West won, returned a club, and the club ruff netted one down.

NORTH
♠ Q 7 5
♥ A Q 6
♦ K 7
♣ Q J 7 6 3

WEST
♠ K 4 2
♥ 9 7 2
♦ J 8 6 4 2
♣ 9 2

EAST
♠ 8 3
♥ J 8 5 4
♦ A 10 9 4 3
♣ A 5 4

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

The bidding
South West North East
1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
3♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
4♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Diamond four

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

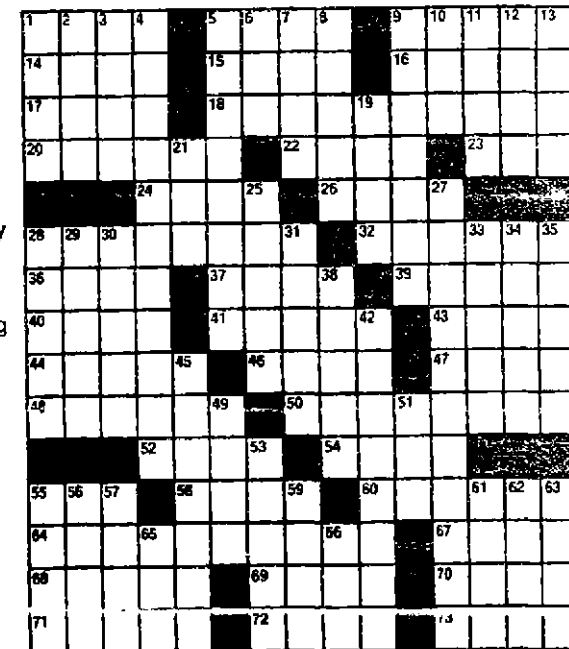
No. 0210

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pilgrimage to Mecca
5 Weather vane
9 It may have its own registry
14 Lamb's pen name
15 Champagne bucket
16 Pep
17 Catalogue abbr.
18 Twins player in "Big Business"
20 Gathered, as berries
22 Spinks of the ring
23 Suffix with Japan or journal
24 French father
26 Bronx cheer
- 28 Models of excellence
32 "The Crimes of Love" author
36 List-shortening abbr.
37 Recital piece
39 Betray, in a way
40 Terhune's "Dog"
41 Upright
43 Region
44 Lively Highland dance
46 Parcel (out)
47 Aspersions
48 Pizza portions
50 City on San Francisco Bay
52 Coup d'
54 Late Chinese leader
56 Attorneys' org.
- 58 Soprano's song, maybe
60 Get ready
64 Twins player in "Start the Revolution Without Me"
67 Skeleton part
68 Part of UHF
69 Pound of poetry
70 Skip over
71 Shelley's "Adonais," e.g.
72 Tailor's meeting place
73 Assign an "R," say
- DOWN**
- 1 Rope fiber
2 Et (and others)
3 Kind of jockey
4 Twins player in "House of Numbers"
5 Sweetbrier
6 Here, to Héloïse
7 "The Girl in the Kremlin" girl
8 Clotheshine alternative
9 Get-ten-quick application
10 Zodiac animal
11 Supermodel
12 Ivy League team
13 Bit of force
14 Warty hopper
15 Brain-wave test, briefly
16 Vast, in the past

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MAZE OFFER STALS
AMES RARE TOLET
MISTERBIG OPINE
ASTER ISO OBESE
SNEAK PLANNER
SAG INN PAIR
EVENER POLEAXES
PERU OBOES NILE

EELY DEI GAS
SPARES BADGE
TAROT OWN ONSET
ASOUL MAJOROMO
ISONE ANON ELMO
DEMOS NAST DEAL



Puzzle by John Greenman

- 27 Twins player in "The Girl in the Kremlin"
28 Ill-gotten gains
29 To any extent
30 Wheel spokes, e.g.
31 Catch some Z's
33 Ring around a
- 40 Vacation spot
41 A wee hour
42 Condo division
43 Scrabble pieces
44 Chills and fever
45 Dingy
46 Chip in chips
48 Alike tool
- 51 "Arrivederci"
52 Condo division
53 Tennis's Sampras
54 Bit of work
55 Time to remember

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone 1-900-420-5656 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.